

Comments

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's office action mailed 5/19/06. At the time the Examiner mailed the office action claims 1-6, 9-16, 19-36 and 39-46 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant: 1) has amended claims 1, 11, 21, 27 - 29, 31, 40, 44 - 46; 2) has not canceled any claims; 3) has not added any claims. As such, claims 1, 11, 21, 27 - 29, 31, 40, 44 - 46 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner: 1) has rejected independent claims 1 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,468 (hereinafter "Muller et. al."), U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,108 (hereinafter "Kerr et. al."), U.S. Pat. No. 5,222,217 (hereinafter "Blount et. al.") and U.S. Pat. No. 6,119,170 (hereinafter, "Schoffelman et al."); 2) rejected independent claims 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of the combination of Muller et. al., Kerr et. al., Blount et. al., Schoffelman et. al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,206,935 (hereinafter, "Sinks et. al.").

In response, the Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 to indicate that socket software is being executed on a network offload processor. A socket is typically understood to be the software interface between an application software program running on a host processor and the networking resources that permit that application software program to communicate over a network.

Each of the Muller et. al., Kerr et. al., Blount et. al., and Sinks et. al. appear to be silent as to the execution, including the location of such execution, of any socket

software. The Schoffelman et. al. reference clearly indicates only that socket software is being executed on the host processors not the network processing offload processors (see, e.g., Fig. 2 of Schoffelman showing sockets 10-204 being executed on host processor 10-20 which is separate and distinct from front-end processors 10-4a, 10-4b, 10-4c).

As such, the references cited by the Examiner fail to cover all claim elements of the Applicant's independent claims. Therefore all claims are presently in allowable condition. The Applicant respectfully submits allowance of all claims as a consequence.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Date: 9/12, 2006

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

Respectfully Submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



Robert B. O'Rourke
Reg. No.: 46,972